

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3759
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2017
Isolation of Qatar by Arab Countries
Senguttuvan Shri Balasubramaniam

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has shored up its diplomatic relations with Qatar with a view to improving India's energy security and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the diplomatic and trade embargo imposed on Qatar by Arab nations would adversely affect its trade relations with India in as much as Qatar is the largest supplier of LNG to India and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government would spell out its stance on the diplomatic isolation of Qatar by the Arab countries and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of proactive role India is likely to play in resolving the disputes between Qatar and Arab nations?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI M. J. AKBAR)

(a) & (b) Qatar has been an important and reliable partner in our energy security requirements as it has consistently been our largest supplier of LNG for past several years. Qatar is also one of the key suppliers of crude oil to us.

The diplomatic and trade embargo imposed on Qatar by some Arab countries has not adversely affected our trade and energy ties with Qatar or any other Gulf country as India enjoys close and cordial relations with all these countries.

With regard to ensuring our energy security, we are in close and regular touch with Qatar and other regional countries which have assured us of their continued support through uninterrupted energy supplies.

(c) & (d) With regard to the diplomatic isolation of Qatar by some Arab countries, India's position is that all parties should resolve their differences through a process of constructive dialogue and peaceful negotiations based on well-established international principles of mutual respect, sovereignty and non interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

The Government has been closely monitoring the emerging situation in the Gulf region.